A watercolor illustration of a bouquet of flowers. The flowers have bright red, feathery heads and yellow centers. Green leaves are interspersed among the blooms. The background is a mix of dark and light green washes.

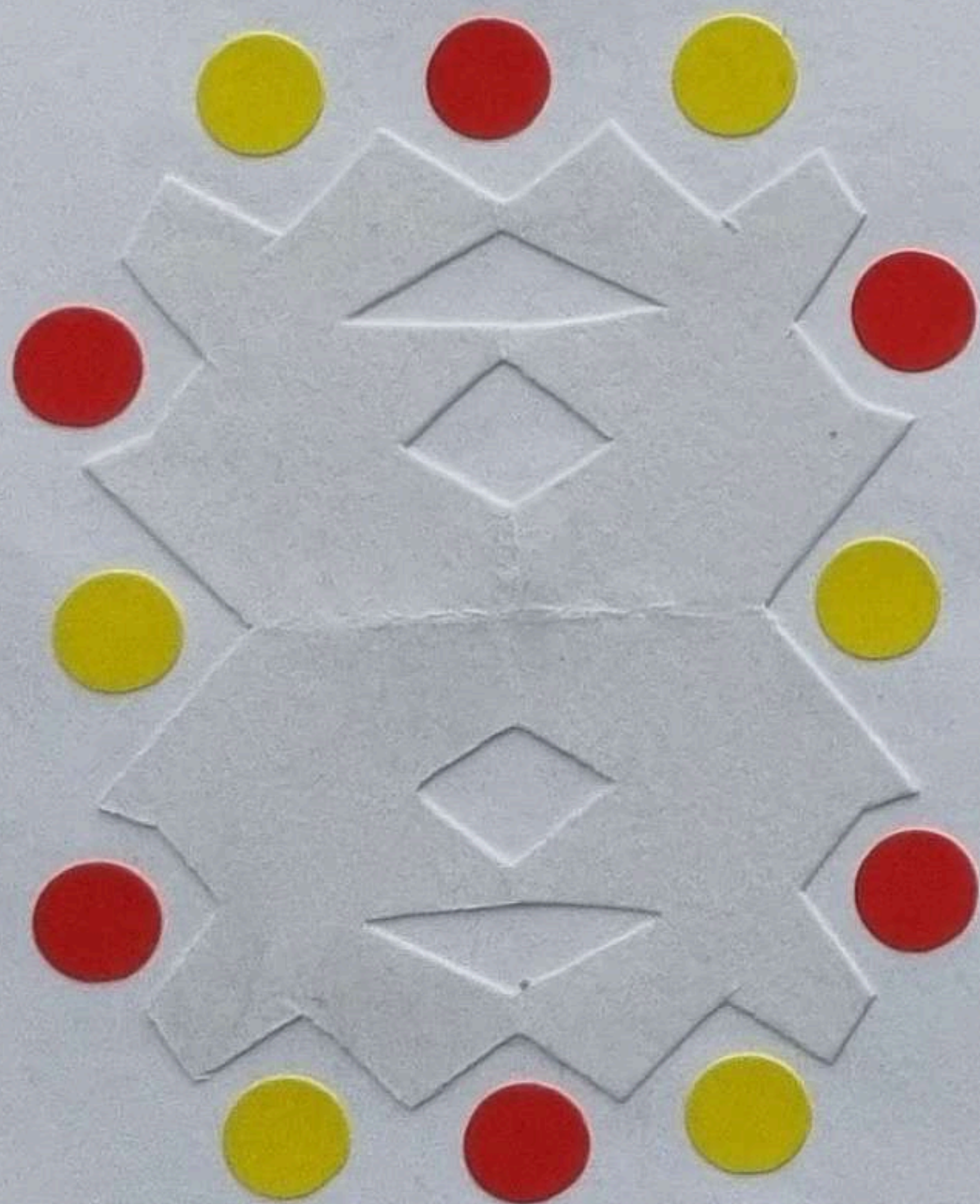
Letters for the

Longhaul

By Zachary Kai

*Fine Letter-Writing*





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You can use many metaphors to describe books, but I'll choose this one: a letter for the long haul. Why? Let me explain. Many have likened books to portals or time machines, for good reason. They allow us to have experiences we'd never have otherwise, convene









with the greatest minds  
of centuries past, and  
discover a perspective  
that makes us see the  
world anew. But I  
like to think of them as  
love letters. Books are  
a labor that takes  
months, years, and even  
decades to make. They  
require much attention,







care, devotion and  
energy to create. And  
even if you spend the  
time doing so, you're  
not guaranteed a result,  
whether that's money  
copies sold or accolades  
or the satisfaction of  
knowing you've passed  
on your knowledge  
to the people who







need it. It's taking a  
risk, doing it for its own  
sake as much as  
anything else. In short  
it's a Labor of Love. This  
is why we write, why  
we read, why we live. For  
the love of it. The outdoors  
alone aren't enough.  
A Labor of Love gets us  
through the long haul.





